

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MOSCOW 13772 261259Z

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ACTION SS-25

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TAGS: PARM, US, UR

SUBJECT: TTBT/PNE NEGOTIATIONS - STATUS REPORT AS OF SEPTEMBER 26,
1975

TTBT/PNE DELEGATION MESSAGE NO. 17

1. MOROKHOV AND TIMERBAEV RETURN MOSCOW SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 28.
2. TWO WORKING GROUPS HAVE BEEN FORMED TO DEAL WITH TECHNICAL ISSUES IN US DRAFT TEXT TABLED SEPTEMBER 10. ONE ON INFORMATION EXCHANGE PROVISIONS IN PROTOCOL I. SECOND ON OBSERVER PROVISIONS IN PROTOCOL I AND ON ENTIRE PROTOCOL II. INITIAL MEETING OF SECOND WORKING GROUP SEPTEMBER 25. INITIAL MEETING OF FIRST WORKING GROUP SEPTEMBER 26.
3. ACCORDING TO SAFRONOV, SOVIET SIDE WILL BRING ITS VIEW TO WORKING GROUP MEETINGS IN FORM OF SUGGESTED AMENDMENTS TO DRAFT TEXT.
4. SAFRONOV HAS EXPRESSED THE OPINION THAT WORKING GROUP ON INFORMATION EXCHANGE WILL NOT HAVE MUCH TO DO AND THAT THE DIFFERENCES TO BE DEALT WITH ARE NOT SUBSTANTIVE.
5. SAFRONOV SAID SOVIETS BELIEVE THE PROTOCOLS SHOULD BE REARRANGED SO THAT ONE PROTOCOL DEALS WITH INFORMATION EXCHANGE

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 MOSCOW 13772 261259Z

ONLY AND THE OTHER WITH OBSERVER RIGHTS AND FUNCTIONS.

6. SAFRONOV SAID SOVIETS WILL ON TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, PRESENT AMENDED TEXT ON POINTS IN PROTOCOL I COVERED IN 26 SEPTEMBER MEETING AND REPORTED SEPTEL.

7. SAFRONOV HAS ALSO EXPRESSED THE OPINION THAT ALL OF THE TECHNICAL WORK COULD BE COMPLETED BY END OF NEXT WEEK (OCTOBER 3).

8. US SIDE HAS SUGGESTED CHANGES TO DRAFT TEXT TO DEAL WITH MOST OF THE PROBLEMS OF PHRASING AND TERMINOLOGY RAISED BY SOVIET SIDE THUS FAR, AND IN A FEW DAYS WILL PROBABLY HAVE MADE SUGGESTIONS FOR DEALING WITH ALL SUCH PROBLEMS THAT HAVE BEEN RAISED TO DATE.

9. COMMENTS:

(A) WORK ON INFORMATION EXCHANGE PROVISIONS IN PROTOCOL I PROBABLY CAN BE COMPLETED NEXT WEEK.

(B) WHETHER OR NOT ALL TECHNICAL WORK CAN BE COMPLETED ON OR ABOUT OCTOBER 3 WILL DEPEND IN LARGE PART ON HOW THOROUGHLY SOVIET SIDE HAS DONE HOMEWORK. SECOND WORKING GROUP MEETING SEPTEMBER 25 WAS ATTENDED ON SOVIET SIDE BY BEZUMOV AND MYASNIKOV, WHO DEPARTED FOR VIENNA TOWARD END OF MEETING. BEZUMOV ADDRESSED ONLY PROTOCOL I ARTICLE VI AND SPOKE FROM HANDWRITTEN NOTES, WITH MYSSNIKOV OBVIOUSLY HEARING FOR FIRST TIME WHAT BEZUMOV WAS SAYING. HIS POINTS WERE NOT IN FORM OF SPECIFIC SUGGESTED LANGUAGE.

(C) GENERAL IMPRESSION OF DELEGATION IS THAT SOVIETS ARE NOT YET PREPARED TO DEAL SYSTEMATICALLY WITH MATTER ASSIGNED TO THE WORKING GROUPS ON OBSERVER PROVISIONS AND PROTOCOL II. PROSPECT FOR IMMEDIATE FUTURE IS SLOW-PACED DEVELOPMENT OF LIST OF SOVIET COMMENTS AND CONCERNS.

(D) WE HAVE NO INDICATION YET HOW SOVIET SIDE WILL WANT TO PROCEED IN WORKING OUT LEGAL MATTERS SUCH A LIABILITY PROVISIONS.

(E) ON BASIS OF REMARKS BY SAFRONOV, SOVIETS SEEM WILLING TO ACCEPT THE BASIC FORM OF PROVISION ON COOPERATION NOW IN TREATY ARTICLE VII PARAGRAPH 2, THAT IS, TO LEAVE SPECIFICS OF FORMS AND PROGRAMS OF COOPERATION TO BE DEVELOPED IN SEPARATE FUTURE AGREE-
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SECRET

PAGE 03 MOSCOW 13772 261259Z

MENTS; HOWEVER, THEY HAVE ARGUED THAT THE PROVISION MUST INCLUDE AN OBLIGATION. IF PRESENT INDICATIONS ARE RELIABLE, THE SOVIET SIDE WOULD PROBABLY BE SATISFIED WITH ARTICLE VII PARAGRAPH 2 WITH "MAY" CHANGED TO "SHALL" AND WITH "FROM TIME TO TIME" DELETED OR REPHRASED. THEY WILL PROBABLY MAKE FURTHER EFFORTS TO SPRINKLE THE WORD "COOPERATION" AROUND THE PROTOCOL TEXTS. IN PARTICULAR, BEZUMOV SAID FUNCTIONS OF OBSERVERS IN ARTICLE VI OF PROTOCOL I SHOULD BE STATED TO BE IN FRAMEWORK OF COOPERATION.

(F) APART FROM INITIAL REPETITION OF JULY 24 POSITION, NOTING FURTHER HAS BEEN SAID ABOUT: (1) SPECIFIC FIGURES FOR YIELD LIMITS, (2) EXCEPTIONS TO INDIVIDUAL YIELD LIMIT FOR EXCAVATION.

(G) SOVIET SIDE HAS NOT YET SHOWN ANY SIGNS OF READINESS TO DESCRIBE THE PROBLEM THAT THEY SAY THEY HAVE WITH VERIFYING SIDE USING ITS OWN EQUIPMENT.

(H) IF SOVIET HOMEWORK HAS BEEN ADEQUATELY DONE, TECHNICAL WORK PROBABLY CAN BE BROUGHT TO COMPLETION (IN THE SENSE OF RESOLVING OUTSTANDING DIFFERENCES OR REDUCING THEM TO WELL DEFINED ISSUES TO BE RESOLVED AS POLICY MATTERS) IN A COUPLE OF WEEKS AND HEADS OF DELEGATIONS CAN DEAL WITH MAJOR OTHER ISSUES. THESE MAY INCLUDE: (1) SPECIFIC YIELD LEVELS; (2) WHOSE EQUIPMENT WILL BE USED IN VERIFICATION; (3) RESIDUAL PROBLEMS IN THE COMBINED SUBJECT EXCAVATION AND THE LTBT; (4) FINAL LANGUAGE ON COOPERATION; (5) AT WHOSE DISCRETION OBSERVERS WILL BE PRESENT. IN ADDITION, THERE MAY BE NEED TO ARRANGE FOR COMPLETION OF WORK ON ANY ITEMS THAT MAY HAVE LAGGED BEHIND, E.G., CERTAIN LEGAL POINTS SUCH AS MENTIONED IN (D), ABOVE, AND FOR DEVELOPMENT OF AN UNDERSTANDING ON HOW TO PROCEED ON SEVERAL ITEMS WHICH WILL REQUIRE ELABORATION IN SOME FORM OF SEPARATE AGREEMENT, E.G., RADIO FREQUENCIES AND OTHER CHARACTERISTICS OF COMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT TO BE USED BY OBSERVERS.

(I) IF SOVIET TECHNICAL HOMEWORK HAS NOT BEEN ADEQUATELY DONE, WE MAY WISH TO CONSIDER WHETHER TO RECESS UNTIL IT IS DONE OR REMAIN IN PLACE TO EXERT SUCH PRESSURE AS WE CAN AND PICKUP INDICATIONS OF DEVELOPING SOVIET THINKING.
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